

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 5, as follows:

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According to the present embodiment 3, even when the signal intensity of the 16 pixels ranges over all the eight decode levels LEVEL0-LEVEL7, for example, the calculation of the 16 pixels can be halved to eight times, offering an advantage of being able to considerably reduce the calculation amount for the ~~exposure control~~ gain correction.

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